

**Department of Environmental Quality
The Dow Chemical Company**

**Town Hall Meetings on
Proposed Ongoing Community
Involvement Process**

DoubleTree Hotel, Bay City - August 17, 2005

Holiday Inn, Midland - August 24, 2005

Horizons Center, Saginaw - August 25, 2005

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- DEQ Update on “Facility” Policy
- Status of Interim Response Activities
- Proposed Ongoing Community Involvement Plan
- Discussion
- What’s Next?
- Adjourn

Facility Policy

- Property is a facility when one of the following conditions is met:
 - Available data from property in question shows contamination exceeding residential cleanup criteria
 - Approved plan for response activity includes the property in question in an area subject to response activity
 - Reasonable inferences can be made from existing data that response is necessary on a property

Facility Policy (Cont'd.)

- Sampling need not be done on a parcel-by-parcel basis to understand extent of contamination
- Long-established scientific principles allow professionally trained experts to draw conclusions based on available data
- Example: If neighboring properties have been frequently flooded and testing shows high levels of contaminants, it can reasonably be concluded that unsampled contiguous properties in flooded area will show similar levels

Example Map 1



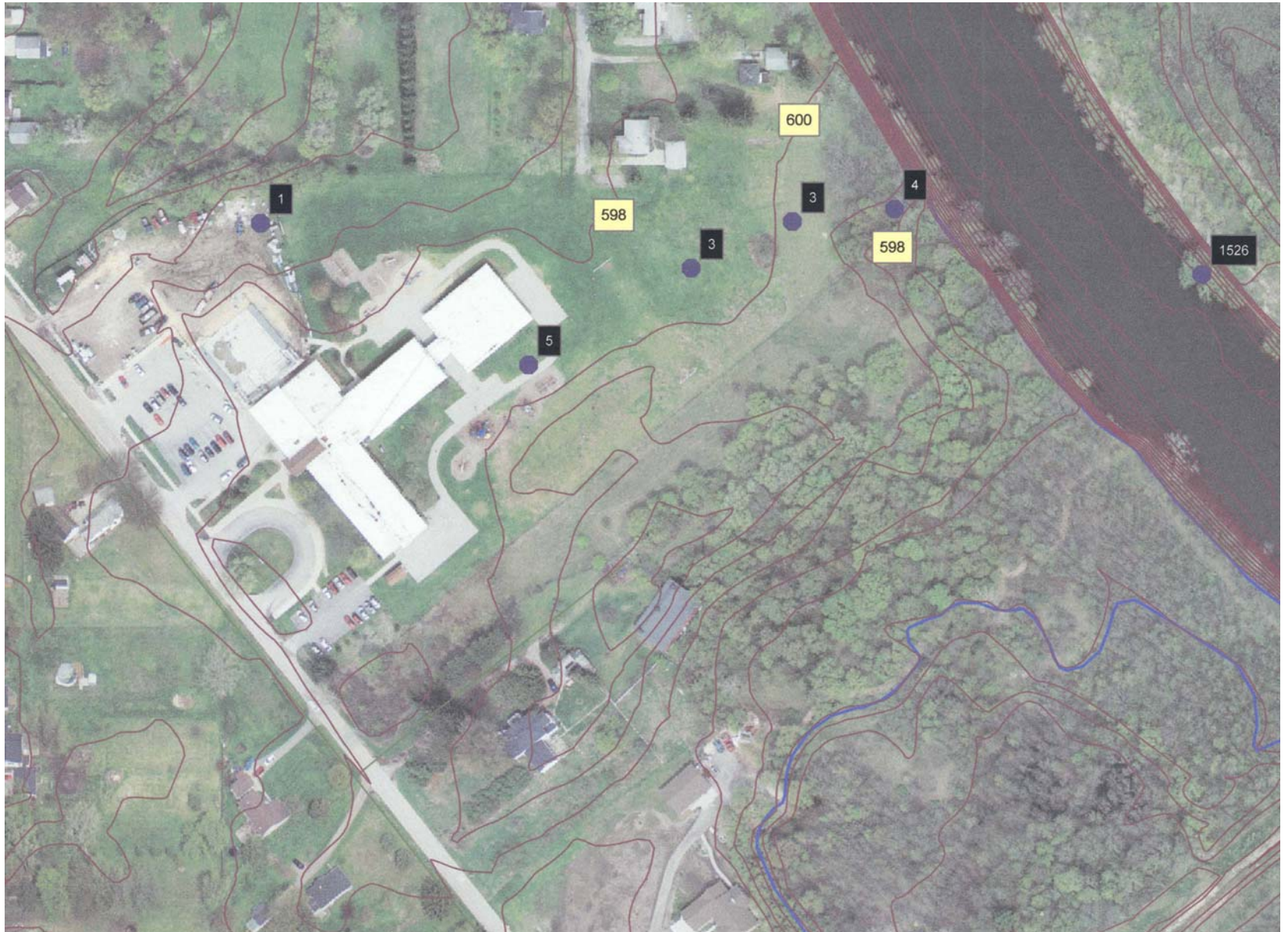
Example Map 2



Example Map 3



Example Map 4



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Interim Response Activities - IRAs

- Required by DEQ/Consistent with License
- To minimize contact with soils exceeding 1000 ppt ATSDR dioxin/furan action level
- Public/High-use Areas and designated residential properties in Midland and along the Tittabawassee River

Interim Response Activities - IRAs

- Priority 1 Areas – 103 properties proximate to Dow plant in Midland and 351 along Tittabawassee River where flooding inundated or came within 20' of residence during 7-10 yr flood event. (2005)
- Priority 2 Areas – Properties along the Tittabawassee River that flooded less extensively. (2006)
- Parks – Freeland Festival, Imerman and West Michigan.

Interim Response Activities - IRAs

- Residential IRAs:
 - Interior house cleaning including dusting, carpets and furnace ducts
 - Replace furnace filters
 - Installation of covering materials for exposed soils
 - Other reasonable measures agreed to by residents and Dow
- *Participation rates at 80% in Midland and 65% along the Tittabawassee River

Interim Response Activities - IRAs

Parks on the Tittabawassee River

- Installed hand-wash stations
- Soil replacement/re-seeding
- Bank stabilization
- Wood chips on pathways/play areas
- Asphalt/concrete walking paths
- Concrete staging pad for cross country
- Advisory signage

Interim Response Activities - IRAs

Communications

- Community Information Centers
 - Various locations throughout tri-cities area
 - Relevant DEQ, MDCH, MDA, ATSDR literature
- Advisory Warning Signage in parks and high-use public areas

Studies Underway/Completed

- Human Exposure Study – Univ. of Michigan
- MDCH Pilot Exposure Study
- Ecological Risk Assessments – DEQ/MSU/Entrix
- Dow Wild Game Sampling Study
- Bioavailability Study – Univ. of Missouri
- Various soil/sediment scoping studies by DEQ and contractors hired by Dow
- Flow and solids monitoring in the Tittabawassee River

Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

- Gather input on the proposed ongoing community involvement plan for implementation of the January 2005 DEQ/Dow Framework
 - Dow, the State and Federal governments to work toward a final comprehensive resolution for historical releases to Midland, Tittabawassee/Saginaw Rivers and floodplains, and Saginaw Bay
- Comments will be used to refine the proposal

Convening Meetings Overview

- Points of agreement from four meetings held in March/April 2005
 - Information should be presented clearly and unambiguously by DEQ and Dow
 - Use a variety of means to convey information to the community
 - People should have meaningful input into decisions about how historical releases will be addressed
- Some differences of opinion

Proposed Ongoing Community Involvement Process

- DEQ/Dow propose to relay information and gather input from the tri-cities communities in a variety of ways based on convening meeting input
- These efforts are intended to:
 - Share information with the community
 - Obtain feedback from the community
 - Improve decisions
 - Build trust among all involved parties

Proposed Ongoing Community Involvement Process (Cont'd.)

- Long-term effort to resolve the difficult challenges caused by elevated levels of dioxins and furans in the environment
- DEQ/Dow are committed to addressing these challenges in ways that:
 - Reduce potential exposure
 - Protect public health
 - Benefit both the environment and the economy
 - Actively and effectively involve the tri-cities communities and those interested in the future of the region

Proposed Ongoing Community Involvement Process (Cont'd.)

- Establishment of a “Community Advisory Committee” (CAC) is proposed to act as a focal point for community involvement
- Would be based on, and expand upon, the DEQ Community Advisory Panel (CAP) concept
- Would advise DEQ/Dow on specific aspects of the corrective action process to resolve the dioxin issue, including community involvement

Proposed CAC

- 16 - 20 members
 - Commit to given number of meetings per year
 - Serve for two year period
 - Membership would change over time

Proposed CAC (Cont'd.)

- Meetings run by a professional facilitator for a neutral and balanced process
- Meetings open to the public, with an agenda that includes a segment for public comment
- Meeting transcripts produced by a professional recorder and available to the public

Input on CAC Proposal at June 28, 2005 Meeting

- Proposed process is too cumbersome
- 16-20 members may be too limiting
- May not be representative
- Concerned about selection
- **Alternative Proposal** - Hold regular town hall meetings (e.g., bi-monthly) rotating between Midland, Saginaw and Bay City that everyone can attend instead of establishing a CAC

CAC Proposal vs. Regular Town Hall Meetings

- Strengths of CAC
 - Dedicated individuals for specified timeframe
 - Ongoing involvement/continuity
 - Minimize re-education at each meeting
- Sense from prior comments that CAC proposal can be simplified
- We would like your comments tonight

Proposed Means Other than CAC for Communicating with Public

- Technical Information Meetings
- Periodic Town Hall Meetings
- Community Dialogue on Major Milestones
(Final Agreement, Remedial Action Plan)
- Information Sheets
- Group Meetings (Professional, Civic, Educational,
Similar Organizations)

Meetings (Other than CAC Meetings)

- Would be held as needed by DEQ/Dow to present information to the community on a variety of topics
- Receive feedback from public
- Open to anyone who wants to attend
- Run by a professional facilitator
- Meeting transcripts produced by a professional recorder and available to the public

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED ONGOING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

- **DEQ/Dow believe the proposed ongoing community involvement process would provide effective way to:**
 - Provide information to the community
 - Receive community input to consider during the decision-making process
- **Proposal will evolve as comment is received on how the community involvement process might be improved**

What's Next?

- Proposed Ongoing Community Involvement Process will be refined and communicated to public
- Results from the many studies that are underway by Dow and DEQ will be reported as they become available
- Remedial Investigation Work Plan due to be submitted by Dow to DEQ by end of year

Adjourn

Written comments may be sent to:

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